

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 have been examined. Claims 5, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), and claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 6 and 7 are allowed, and claims 8-12 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

As stated above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 6 and 7 are allowed, and claims 8-12 contain allowable subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that claims 8-12 would be allowed if rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten claims 8-12 into independent form, and submits that claims 6-12 are now in condition for allowance.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,473,735 to Murakami (“Murakami”).

Claims 5, 13 and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Murakami.

A. Claim 5

Since claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claim is now moot.

B. Claims 13 and 14

Since claims 13 and 14 are dependent either upon claim 6 or claim 7, which the Examiner has indicated are allowed, Applicant submits that claims 13 and 14 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,806,005 to Hull et al. (“Hull”) in view of Murakami.

Claims 1-4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hull in view of Murakami. However, since claims 1-4 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant submits that the rejection of such claims is now moot.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/533,107

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison M. Tulino
Registration No. 48,294

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 3, 2004